THE AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method for inducing or enhancing the threshold voltage of an electrophoretic display, which method comprises

a) preparing an electrophoretic fluid comprising charged pigment-containing microparticles dispersed in a dielectric solvent or solvent mixture wherein said pigment-containing microparticles ~~comprise a hard shell formed from a protective colloid~~ are formed by emulsifying an internal phase comprising primary pigment particles and a reactive monomer or oligomer into a continuous phase comprising a protective colloid; and

b) adding to said electrophoretic fluid a threshold promoter represented by one of the following formulas:

$$R—[Q—L—(X)_m]_q \qquad \text{(T-1)}$$

$$R—[Q—L—X—Q'—(L'—Y)_m]_q \qquad \text{(T-2)}$$

$$R—[Q—L—(X—Q'—L'—Y)_m]_q \qquad \text{(T-3)}$$

$$[(X)_m—L—Q]_q—R—[Q'—L'—(Y)_{m'}]_{q'} \qquad \text{(T-4)}$$

wherein:

m and m' are independently natural numbers which are ≥1;

q and q' are independently natural numbers which are ≥1;

R is a halogenated group or a halogenated polymeric or oligomeric chain;

Q and L or Q' and L' together forming a linking chain; and

X and Y are independently functional groups capable of forming hydrogen bonding, acid-base interaction, donor-acceptor interaction, metal-ligand interaction or Coulombic interaction.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein Q in –Q-L- and Q' in -Q'-L'- are independently absent, ether (-O -), thioether (-S -), amide (-CON<, -CONR^{12}- or -R^{12}NCO-), imide [(-CO)$_2$N-], urea (-R^{12}NCONR^{13}-), thiourea (-R^{12}NCSNR^{13}-), urethane (-OCONR^{12}- or –R^{12}NCOO-), thiourethane (-OCSNR^{12}- or -R^{12}NCSO-), ester (-COO- or –OOC-), carbonate [-OC(O)O-], imine (=N-) or amine (-NR^{12}-) wherein R^{12} and R^{13} are independently hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, polyether or a derivative thereof.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein m and m' are independently 1 or 2.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein q and q' are independently 1 or 2.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein X and Y are independently –OH, -SH, $-NH_2$, -NH-, =N-, $>N^+<$, $=N^+<$, -CO-, -COO-, -OCO-, $-COO^-$, -COOH, -COOCO-, -O-, $-CONR^8-$, $-CONH_2$, $-OCONR^8-$, $-NR^8COR^9$, $-R^8NCONR^9-$, $-CONR^8CO-$, -OCOO-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$, $-SO_2^-$, $-SO_3^-$, $-SO_4^-$, $-SO_2H$, $-SO_3H$, $-PO_4H_2$, $-PO_4^{-2}$, $-PO_4H^-$, $-PO_3H_2$, $-PO_3H^-$, $-SO_2NH-$, $-SO_2NR^8-$, a pyridinium or quaternary ammonium salt, metal or metal ion or a chelated derivative thereof, wherein R^8 and R^9 are independently hydrogen, alkyl or fluorinated alkyl of 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein X or Y is a pyridinium salt formed with a counter ion selected from the group consisting of F^-, Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, NO_3^-, NO_2^-, $CO_3^{=}$, $SO_3^{=}$, $SO_4^{=}$, $PO_3^{=}$, PO_4^{3-}, MnO_4^-, $Cr_2O_7^{=}$, $CrO_3^{=}$, BF_4^-, PF_6^-, AsF_6^-, SbF_6^-, optionally fluorinated aliphatic carboxylates, optionally fluorinated sulfonates, anions of optionally fluorinated sulfonyl imides, anions of optionally fluorinated aromatic carboxylates, anions of optionally fluorinated sulfonates, fluoropolyether substituted carboxylate, and fluoropolyether substituted sulfonates.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein said optionally fluorinated aliphatic sulfonate is $C_aH_bF_{(2a+1-b)}SO_3^-$ wherein a is 1-30 and b is 0-61.

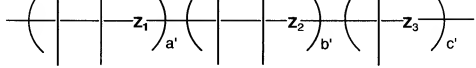
8. (previously presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein said optionally fluorinated aliphatic carboxylate is $C_aH_bF_{(2a+1-b)}CO_2^-$ wherein a is 1-30 and b is 0-61.

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein said counter ion is $F(C_3F_6O)_dCF(CF_3)CO_2^-$, $F(C_3F_6O)_dCF_2CF_2CO_2^-$, $CF_3O(C_2F_4O)_dCF_2CO_2^-$, $F(C_2F_4O)_dCF_2CO_2^-$, $F(C_3F_6O)_dCF(CF_3)SO_3^-$, $F(C_3F_6O)_dCF_2CF_2SO_3^-$, $CF_3O(C_2F_4O)_dCF_2SO_3^-$ or $F(C_2F_4O)_dCF_2SO_3^-$ wherein d is 1-20.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein said pyridinium salt is formed with an anion of $F(C_3F_6O)_yCF(CF_3)COOH$.

11. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein R is fluorinated alkyl or fluorinated aryl.

12. (withdrawn and previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein R is a polymeric or oligomeric chain represented by the following formula:



(R)

wherein the open and not designated substituent positions on the main chain are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, alkylaryl, fluoroalkyl, fluoroalkenyl, fluoroaryl, fluoroalkylaryl, $-OR^{10}$, $OCOR^{10}$, $-COOR^{10}$, $-CONR^{10}R^{11}$ and substituted derivatives thereof, wherein R^{10} and R^{11} are independently hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, fluoroalkyl, fluoroaryl, fluoroalkylaryl or fluorinated polyether;

Z_1, Z_2, and Z_3 are independently oxygen or absent; and

a', b' and c' are the weight fractions of the corresponding repeating units and are independently in the range of 0-1 with their sum no greater than 1.

13. (withdrawn and previously presented) The method of Claim 12 wherein the open substituent positions are independently fluorine or fluorinated alkyl.

14. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said threshold promoter is represented by Formula T-1:

wherein

m is 1 or 2;

q is 1 or 2;

Q is absent, an amide, urea or urethane moiety;

L is a straight or branched alkylene, alkylphenylene, fluorinated alkylene or fluorinated alkylphenylene chain optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms; and

X is hydroxyl, amino or $-NR^8COR^9$ wherein R^8 and R^9 are independently hydrogen, alkyl or fluorinated alkyl.

15. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 14 wherein R is a fluorinated alkyl.

16. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein R is a fluoropolyether.

17. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 14 wherein R is a polymeric or oligomeric chain of Formula (R).

18. (withdrawn and previously presented) The method of Claim 17 wherein the open substituent positions on the main chain of Formula (R) are independently fluorine or fluorinated alkyl.

19. (original) The method of Claim 14 wherein m is 2, q is 1, L is a straight or branched alkylene or alkylphenylene chain optionally interrupted by one or more nitrogen atoms.

20. (original) The method of Claim 19 wherein L is a straight or branched alkylene chain optionally interrupted by one or more nitrogen atoms.

21. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said threshold promoter is represented by Formula T-2:

wherein

Q and Q' are independently absent, an amide, urea or urethane moiety;

L and L' are independently a straight or branched alkylene, alkylphenylene, fluorinated alkylene or fluorinated alkylphenylene chain, optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms;

X is a pyridinium ion;

Y is –OH or amino;

m is 1 or 2; and

q is 1 or 2.

22. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 21 wherein R is a fluorinated alkyl.

23. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 21 wherein R is a fluoropolyether.

24. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 21 wherein R is a polymeric or oligomeric chain of Formula (R).

25. (withdrawn and previously presented) The method of Claim 24 wherein the open substituent positions on the main chain of Formula (R) are independently fluorine or fluorinated alkyl.

26. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 21 wherein L and L' are independently a straight or branched alkylene chain optionally interrupted by one or more nitrogen atoms.

27. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 21 wherein Y is –OH.

28. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said threshold promoter is a pyridinium salt.

29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein said pyridinium salt has a counter ion selected from the group consisting of $C_aF_{2a+1}SO_3^-$, $F(C_3F_6O)_dCF(CF_3)CO_2^-$ and $F(C_2F_4O)_dCF_2CO_2^-$ in which a is 1-12 and d is 1-20.

30-71. (cancelled)

72. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said threshold promoter is represented by Formula T-4:

wherein

R is a fluoropolyether;

Q and Q' are independently absent, amide, urea or urethane;

L and L' are independently a straight or branched alkylene, alkylphenylene, fluorinated alkylene or fluorinated alkylphenylene chain optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms;

X and Y are independently hydroxyl or amino;

m and m' are independently 1 or 2; and

q and q' are independently 1 or 2.

73. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 72 wherein X and Y are independently hydroxyl.

74. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 73 wherein L and L' are independently an alkylene chain optionally interrupted by one or more nitrogen atoms, m, m', q and q' are all 1.

75. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said protective colloid is an amino- or hydroxy-functionalized fluorinated polymer or oligomer.

76. (previously presented) The method of Claim 75 wherein said polymer or oligomer is derived from a fluorinated hydrocarbon, hydrofluoropolyether or perfluoropolyether.

77-83. (cancelled)